

Art Exhibition

Oil paintings by the Japanese artist, Mr. Katsuro Hara,
9 a. m. to 9 p. m. daily. Closes Sunday, December 23.

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Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

I.-I. UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT IN RATE FIGHT

Decision Holds That It Can Increase Rates; Utilities Authority Curbed

That the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co. has authority to increase its freight and passenger rates in accordance with the new schedule which was to have gone into effect October 1, but which was held up by an injunction suit brought by the public utilities commission, is the finding of the supreme court in a decision handed down late yesterday afternoon.

The supreme court holds that the public utilities commission has no jurisdiction to regulate the rates and charges of a common carrier by water in interstate commerce for the transportation of persons and property from port to port in the territory of Hawaii.

On September 28 the commission, in a decision, ordered the shipping company to return to the schedule of rates in effect in 1915. The company immediately announced an increase in its rates to take effect October 1, declaring that this new schedule had been approved by the federal shipping board and that the company did not have the authority to reduce or otherwise change them without the consent of the board. At this time the company filed an appeal from the commission's decision and order.

The commission then brought an injunction suit against the company to restrain it from disobeying the order, and the company also took this case to the supreme court on appeal.

As regards the authority of the federal shipping board, the supreme court decision says:

"The shipping board established by act of Congress of September 7, 1916, has sole and exclusive jurisdiction to regulate rates and charges of a common carrier by water in interstate commerce."

In this connection one of the four contentions upon which the steamship company appealed was that the public utilities commission had no jurisdiction over the reasonableness of the freight and passenger rates charges by the company, but that this jurisdiction was vested solely in the federal shipping board.

The decision continues, in part: "There is no question that the appellant, under provision of the shipping act, is a 'common carrier by water in interstate commerce.' It is engaged in the transportation of passengers and property from port to port in the territory of Hawaii."

"Congress has the exclusive power of controlling and regulating foreign and interstate commerce and plenary legislative power in the territories. It has the power to place all shipping on the high seas in the territory on the same plane as interstate commerce and to withdraw the control thereof from any local board or commission and place the same in a board created by it, and we are satisfied it has done so in the shipping act."

SUGAR SCARCITY DUE LARGELY TO CAR SHORTAGE

Sugar scarcity on the mainland during the last month has been generally due to a lack of cars to get the product where needed, according to Horace Johnson, consulting chemist with C. Brewer & Co., who with Mrs. Johnson has just returned from a visit as far east as Chicago.

"There were times," says Mr. Johnson, "when small parcels of sugar would be doled out to consumers, but no sugar cards were used in the sections we visited. The distributing was taken care of by the grocers themselves at the request of the authorities. At the time we left matters were adjusting themselves as the transportation facilities had again come into play."

"Business throughout the West seems to be booming," continued Mr. Johnson. "Industry is moving steadily along and no one seems to be out of work. All through the country people are looking for a long war and are making their plans accordingly."

Mr. Johnson will be in the city for several days preparing to take up his work. Mrs. Johnson will return shortly to their home at Hilo, accompanied by the children, Ralph, Paul and Evelyn, who have been in school here while their parents were away.

RUSSIAN BONDS DROP TO \$86

Russian government 5½ per cent internal bonds have reached a new low level on the New York market, dropping from \$101 for a 1000-ruble bond to \$86, which caused considerable quaking among local investors, who hold several million rubles' worth of these securities. The drop is the outcome of the declaration by the Bolsheviks repudiating Russia's national debt. The news of the drop was received yesterday by the Bishop Trust Company.

No quotations were given on the Imperial Russian 6½ per cent externals nor on the Imperial Russian 5½ per cent externals, but there is no doubt that these two securities fell at the same time as the internals.

Although the bonds are very low, the par value of the internals being \$114.50, both the financial men on the mainland and the local investors are not pessimistic, but appear to be pos-

ACQUISITION OF FISH RIGHTS BY TERRITORY, PLAN

Child Favors Taking Fight to Congress Direct; Would Cost \$150,000

Condemnation of the fishing rights of the islands and turning them over to the territorial government for administration is the latest war measure of J. F. Child, federal food commissioner, in his efforts to conserve the food supply of the territory.

Mr. Child has already a list of all the fishing rights which are 41 in number, with a full tabulation as to their ownership, valuation and income derived. It is estimated by Mr. Child that it will cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000 to condemn the properties.

Just what method will be employed to have the rights condemned has not been definitely decided, but it is felt that the quickest and surest way would be to take the matter direct to congress as already several similar measures have been before the local legislature and failed to pass.

At present the fishing rights are owned by persons who lease them to fishing companies. Under the proposed plan anyone may fish who takes out a license.

KURTISTOWN IS SOLD FOR \$10,000

Kurtistown, 11 miles from Hilo on the Volcano road, and the store, store building and store site, has been sold to T. Dranga, a Crescent City business man, for approximately \$10,000, according to reports reaching Honolulu today.

The transfer was made last week, after A. G. Curtis, the owner, returned from the mainland. It is his mercantile business which Mr. Curtis has disposed of, but he still retains much of his cane land, from which he has made an independent fortune in the last few years.

Kurtistown was named after Mr. Curtis, who was one of the early day coffee planters who tried to wrest wealth from the Olaa lands. This venture proving unprofitable, Mr. Curtis started a general store after which a postoffice was allotted to "11 miles", as Kurtistown is colloquially known on Hawaii.

Mr. Curtis is now bound again for San Francisco where he proposes starting a purchasing agency for island patrons.

The buyer of Kurtistown was formerly engaged in the plumbing business in Hilo, and more recently has conducted a second hand store there.

Itive that the Bolsheviks will shortly be ousted and the new government will cancel the repudiation of the national debt.



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